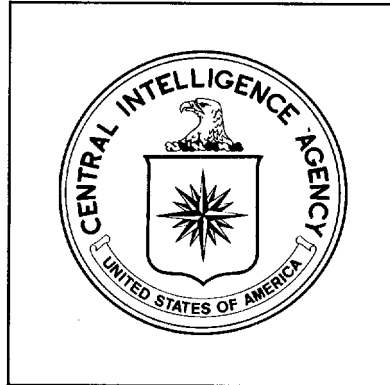




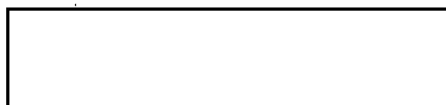
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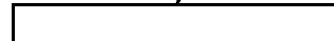
Soviet Union Eastern Europe

State Department review completed



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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE



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C O N T E N T S

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Soviet Officials Comment on Brezhnev's
Weapons Ban Proposal. 1

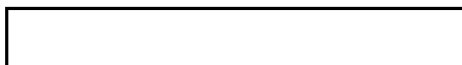
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Soviet Officials Comment on Brezhnev's
Weapons Ban Proposal

Soviet officials are groping for a way to explain what party chief Brezhnev had in mind when he made a passing, but intriguing, reference in his election speech last week to curbing weapons "more terrible than atomic."

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A Soviet disarmament expert in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who was questioned on the Brezhnev reference by a US official on June 17, appeared to be no better briefed than Gromyko. He also said that more than environmental modifications--on which bilateral talks are already under way--was involved.

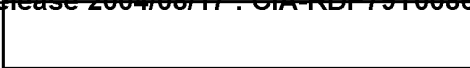
The Soviet official said that at some point Moscow would probably follow up Brezhnev's proposal with the US rather than in a multilateral forum. In his speech, Brezhnev had stressed the importance of the US and the USSR working together on the subject. The official did not think, however, that Brezhnev's proposal would be taken up at the coming summit meeting in Washington.

It seems clear that both Soviets were fielding the questions as best they could, rather than speaking from some well-prepared instructions that might presage a specific Soviet initiative in the

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disarmament field. Soviet negotiators have, however, suggested that "new and exotic weapons technology" might be taken up at SALT. Now that Brezhnev has raised the subject, it seems likely to become a fixture on the list of general Soviet-favored disarmament proposals.



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Moscow Gives Assurances On
Nuclear Deal With Libya

In Moscow's first significant comment on its nuclear deal with Libya, the Soviets have given the US assurances that all aspects of the nonproliferation treaty will be honored. K. G. Morokhov, head of the State Committee on Utilization of Atomic Energy, told a US official during a conference in London that specific details of the agreement with Libya are still to be worked out. He promised that he would expedite the USSR's formal response to the US embassy's inquiry about the agreement.

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Czechoslovakia: Battle Plan against Dissidents

Prague is determined to suppress--"by any and all means"--dissident activity that might interrupt preparations for the 15th party congress, [REDACTED]

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The regime is already employing lesser measures. The interrogation of dissidents and the search of their homes by the secret police following Husak's verbal attack on former party leader Dubcek on April 16, have reportedly produced a climate of fear in the dissident community. None of the important dissidents, however, appears to have been arrested despite the fact that searches reportedly produced ample evidence for trials.

The regime reportedly is still pondering the question of how to handle Dubcek, a special case. He refuses, [REDACTED] to accept any of the post-1968 measures, unrealistically aspires to a high political office, and remains unalterably committed to his ideals. The regime would very much like Dubcek to take the voluntary exile offered him and thereby avoid having to deal with his continued opposition.

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Apart from Dubcek, the regime lumps the major dissidents into two categories: the "Trotskyites"--a misnomer for those who seek a dialogue with the regime to reform it--and the "rabid opponents" who have burned their bridges. It apparently regards both categories with equal suspicion.

Attempts by dissidents and their emigre allies to inject Czechoslovak political repression into

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the European security talks and the preparations for the European Communist party conference may have prompted Prague to crack down. Reports of a second and third "Dubcek letter" in the West European press (an initial letter published in London last spring led to Husak's outburst in April) may be adding fuel to the fire. One letter, reportedly addressed to Husak, seeks to counter the present party chief's denunciation of Dubcek as a "slanderer" and "traitor." The other, to Italian party chief Berlinguer and East German party head Honecker, requests that the Czechoslovak issue be placed on the agenda of the European party meeting.

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Bulgaria: New Labor Minister and First
Deputy Minister

Angel Chaushev has been appointed head of the Bulgarian Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, replacing Kiril Zarev, who in April was promoted to the post of deputy premier and chairman of the State Planning Committee. Since assuming these duties, Zarev has carefully picked and chosen his deputies in an effort to strengthen his hand in formulating and implementing economic policy.

Chaushev, a former first deputy minister of Internal Trade and Public Services, is experienced in education, economic theory, and labor and wage planning. He and his new first deputy, Asen Dobrev, will, however, have to tackle long standing problems in the labor sector which is a key factor in the maintenance of the country's high rate of economic growth.

While Zarev was labor minister, the government stressed increased labor productivity and battled chronic manpower shortages in some sectors of the economy. The regime also implemented strict new labor laws for youth and began an energetic "shock labor" campaign. More recently the regime has called for an increased use of shift work to compensate for the transition to a five-day work week, and articles have appeared in the press which castigate "idleness" on the job. High-level party and government figures--including Bulgarian leader Zhivkov--have thrown their support behind the campaign to increase labor efficiency. [REDACTED]

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